

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR

UNCLAS USUN 5014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN RQ

SUBJ: US RIGHT OF REPLY TO TANZANIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB SCHAUFLE
NOV 21 IN RIGHT OF REPLY TO REP OF TANZANIA RE PUERTO RICO IN
PLENARY DEBATE OF REPORT OF SPECIAL COMITE (COMITE OF 24):

QUOTE

MY RESPONSE TO THE REP FROM TANZANIA WILL BE VERY BRIEF. HE
SPOKE BOTH AS THE REP OF TANZANIA AND AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMITE OF 24, AND I WISH TO REPLY TO BOTH OF THOSE RESPONSES.

I HAVE NO QUARREL, OBVIOUSLY, WITH AMB SALIM'S QUOTATIONS FROM
THE 1966 DOCUMENT. AS FAR AS I KNOW, WITHOUT HAVING THEM IN
FRONT OF ME, THEY ARE ACCURATE. HOWEVER, I THINK THEY, IN EFFECT,
PROVE THE US CONTENTION. WE FULLY AGREE THAT PUERTO RICO IS
CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENCE. BUT THE PUERTO RICANS HAVE CHOSE NOT
TO BE INDEPENDENT, UP UNTIL THIS POINT. THEREFORE THE CAPABILITY
OF BEING INDEPENDENT IS NOT NECESSARILY A PROOF THAT THEY SHOULD BE
INDEPENDENT. AND THAT IS WHY WE CONTINUALLY MAINTAIN FROM THIS
PLATFORM AND OTHER PLATFORMS THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO
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HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE, AND THEY MAKE THAT CHOICE AT EVERY

GENERAL ELECTION, AND THEY WILL BE MAKING THAT CHOICE AGAIN. THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO BE INDEPENDENT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE NOT EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IN FACT, THE FACT THAT ELECTIONS ARE HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS PROVES THAT THEY DO EXERCISE THIS RIGHT IN FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS.

REGARDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE COMITE PROPERLY DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO, I WOULD ONLY REMIND THE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION THAT THE COMITE OF 24 DEALS WITH COLONIAL TERRITORIES OR NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY LISTED. PUERTO RICO USED TO BE IN THAT LIST, BUT PUERTO RICO WAS REMOVED FROM THAT LIST 20 YEARS AGO AND TWO YEARS AGO AN ATTEMPT TO PUT IT BACK ON THAT LIST WAS DEFEATED IN THIS ASSEMBLY. THEREFORE, I REITERATE MY EARLIER CONTENTION THAT THE COMITE IMPROPERLY DEALS WITH PUERTO RICO.

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